

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A current collector, for location between an electrode and a ribbed separator of a fuel cell having a plurality of separators, a plurality of electrodes, and a means of supplying reactants between each electrode and separator comprising:

a plurality of flat wires having a planar surface contactable with an electrode;
said plurality of flat wires having an opposing planar surface contactable with a ribbed separator.

2. A current collector in accordance with claim 1 wherein:
each flat wire is parallel to adjacent flat wires.

3. A current collector in accordance with claim 1 wherein:
said plurality of flat wires are not parallel to ribs of said ribbed separator.

4. A current collector in accordance with claim 1 wherein:
said plurality of flat wires are bonded to said electrode with an adhesive.

5. A current collector in accordance with claim 1 wherein:
said plurality of flat wires may or may not be coincident with opposing flat wires of adjacent fuel cells.

6. A current collector in accordance with claim 1 wherein:
said plurality of flat wires provides for lateral fluid communication between adjacent flow ribs of said separator.

7. A current collector in accordance with claim 1 wherein:
said plurality of flat wires provide support to the extent of their lengths and widths to the electrode.

8. A current collector in accordance with claim 1 wherein:
said plurality of flat wires are continuously and simultaneously slit from sheet metal.

9. A current collector in accordance with claim 1 wherein:
said plurality of flat wires possess a pitch and width alterable to suppress or enhance the fuel cell electrochemical reaction.

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A₂ Claim